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In Flint the effectiveness and scope of community use of the school was directly related to its facilities and their availability. Thus the concept of a community school program had a pronounced effect on the architectural planning of elementary schools in Flint.

Flint's first community school contained the following facilities not usually found in elementary schools: a community room the size of a regular classroom and equipped with a small kitchen; a large gymnasium, two and one-half to five times the size of the all-purpose room usually found in elementary schools, and provided with locker and shower rooms as well as lavatories which could be reached from the playground; an auditorium seating from 200 to 300 and containing a regular stage, workshop, and storage area; and a lighted playground and hard-surfaced basketball court.

The new elementary schools were planned so that a fairly distinctive separation was made between the community area and the regular school area. This made it possible to cut off one from the other with corridor gates, thereby making for easier supervision when the total building was not in use.

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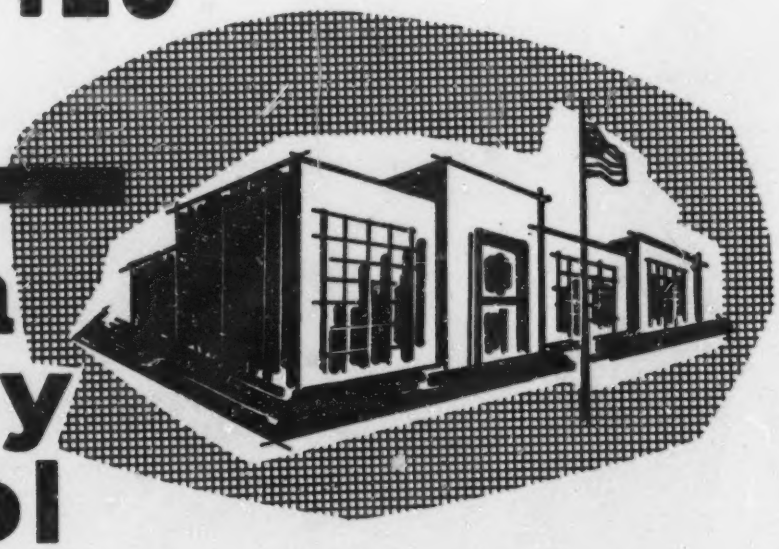
DESIGNING CONSTRUCTING & FINANCING FACILITIES

for a community school



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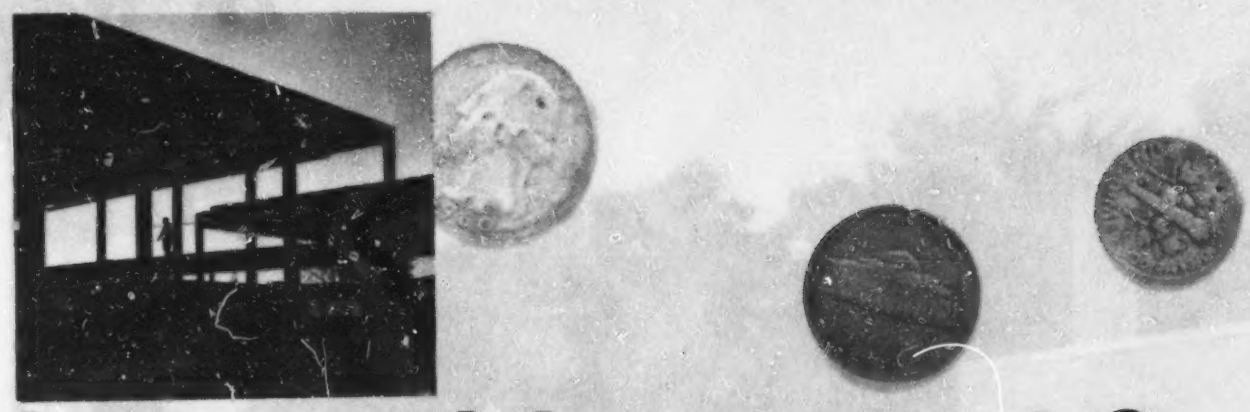


how and how much?

While a community school program is concerned more with creative leadership than with physical structures, we have found in Flint that the effectiveness and scope of community use of the school is directly related to its facilities and their availability. Consequently, the concept of a community school program has had a pronounced effect on the architectural planning of elementary schools in Flint.

The first elementary school building designed as a community school was opened for neighborhood use in 1951.

Public response was so enthusiastic that other elementary school neighborhoods in the city began asking for similar facilities so that they too could have community school programs.

This outspoken acceptance of the community school program led to a sweeping building and modernization program in the Flint Public Schools designed to "communitize" all elementary schools.

The facilities included in Flint's first community school that are not usually found in conventional elementary schools are:

A Community room, classroom size equipped with a small kitchen.

A large gymnasium, two-and-one-half to five times the size of the "all purpose" room usually found in elementary schools and provided with locker and shower rooms as well as lavatories which can be reached from the playground.

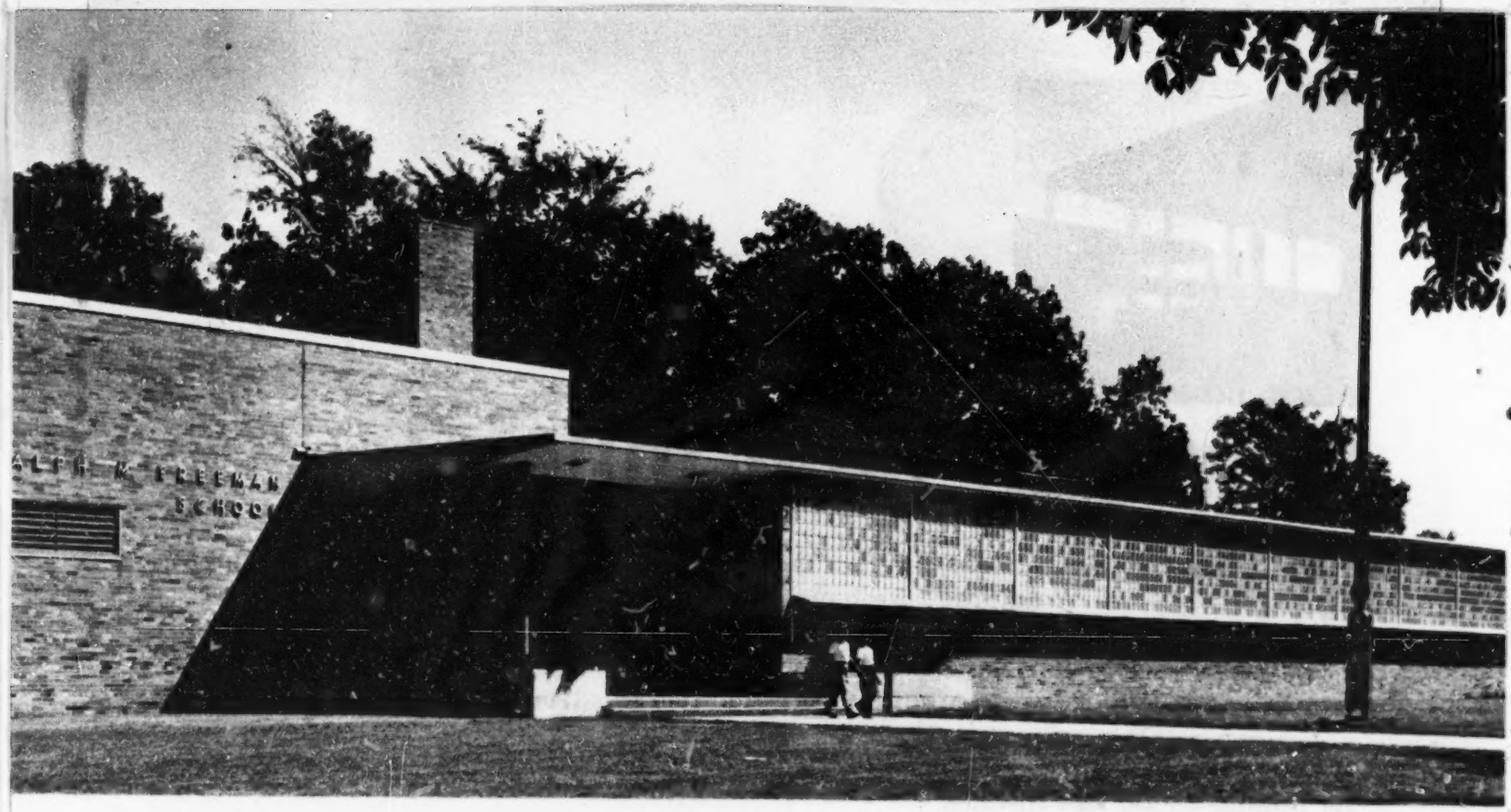
An auditorium, seating from 200 to 300 with a regular stage, workshop and storage area.

Lighted playground. A hard-surfaced artifically lighted basketball court is located near the gym.

Public library branch. The Flint Board of Education has the responsibility for operating the Public Library. All existing branches except one in the downtown area are located in the elementary school buildings and each takes up the area approximately equal to a regular classroom.

In order to provide facilities suitable for developing community school programs, the Flint Board of Education has used three approaches:

--Planning new elementary schools with these above facilities.
--Building community type additions in older elementary schools.
--Taking advantage of released space made available by modernization in more recently built elementary schools.

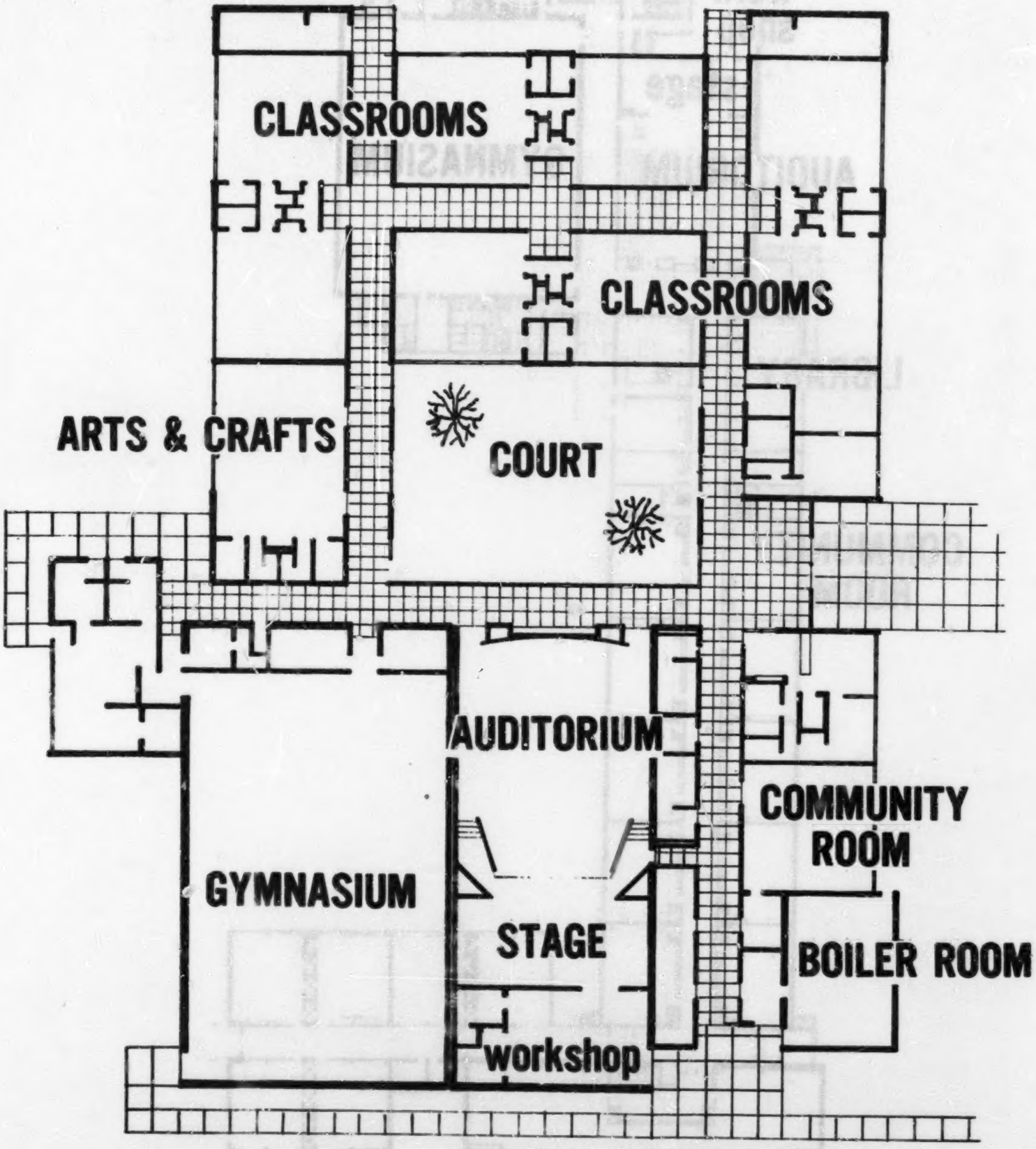


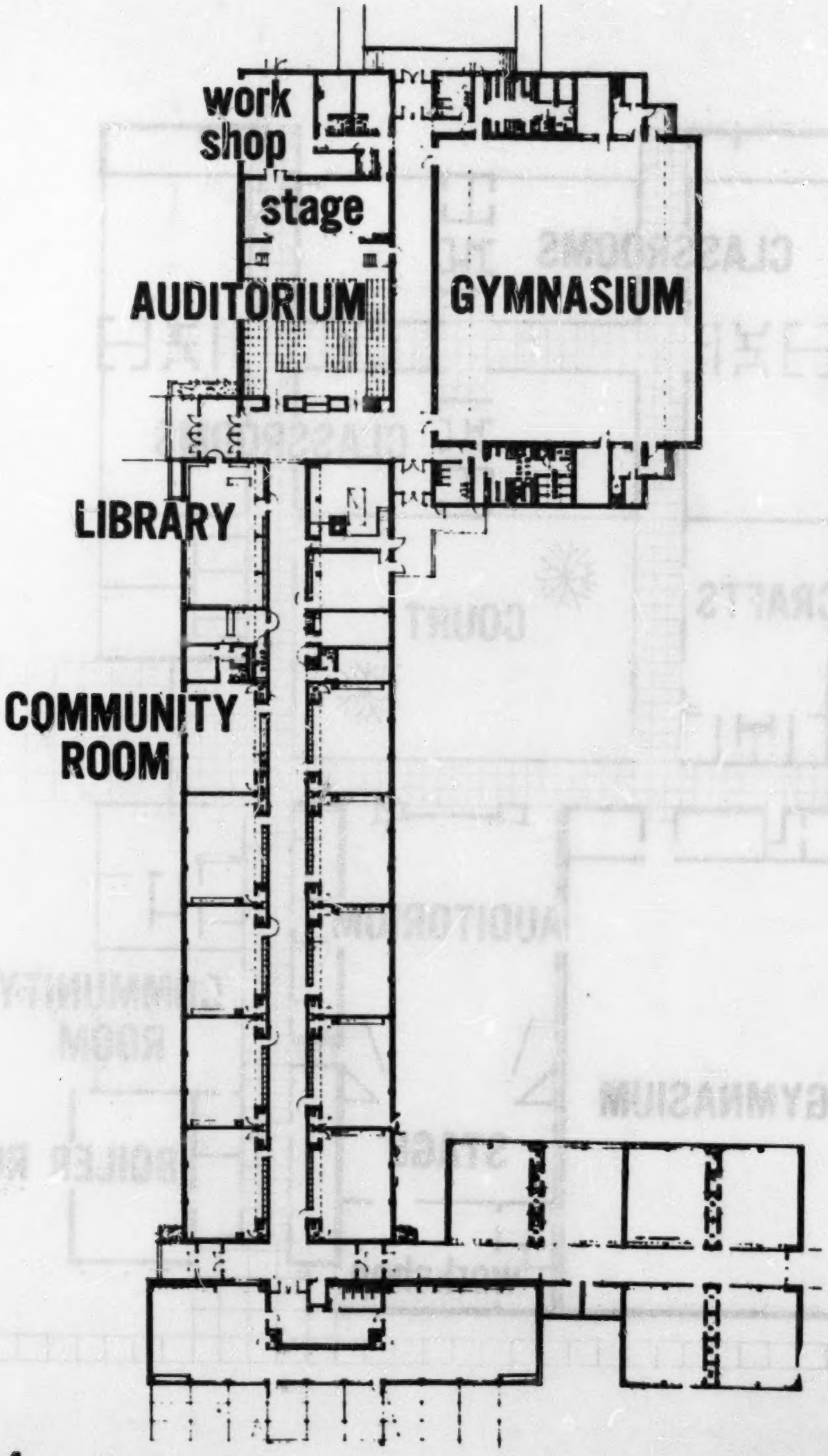
new elementary school plans

The new elementary schools are planned so that a fairly distinctive separation is made between the community area and the regular school area. This makes it possible to cut off one from the other with corridor gates, thereby making for easier supervision when the total building is not in use.

The floor plan on the next page shows the layout of a smaller elementary school with eight classrooms on one side of an open court, and the community room, offices, auditorium and gymnasium on the other side. Corridor gates permit one area to be cut off from the other, providing easier supervision when the total building is not in use. In each plan, toilets in the gym area are available from the outside so that they may be utilized during the summer when the rest of the building is not in use.

Flint has built 11 new elementary schools with community type facilities during the past decade. Except for spectator space in the gymnasium and some slight differences in the amount of seating in the auditorium, the areas provided in each of the eleven schools are similar and have been effective in promoting community use of schools.


CLASSROOMS
CLASSROOMS
ARTS & CRAFTS
COURT
AUDITORIUM
COMMUNITY ROOM
GYMNASIUM
STAGE
BOILER ROOM
workshop


work
shop
stage
AUDITORIUM
GYMNASIUM
LIBRARY
COMMUNITY
ROOM

community type additions

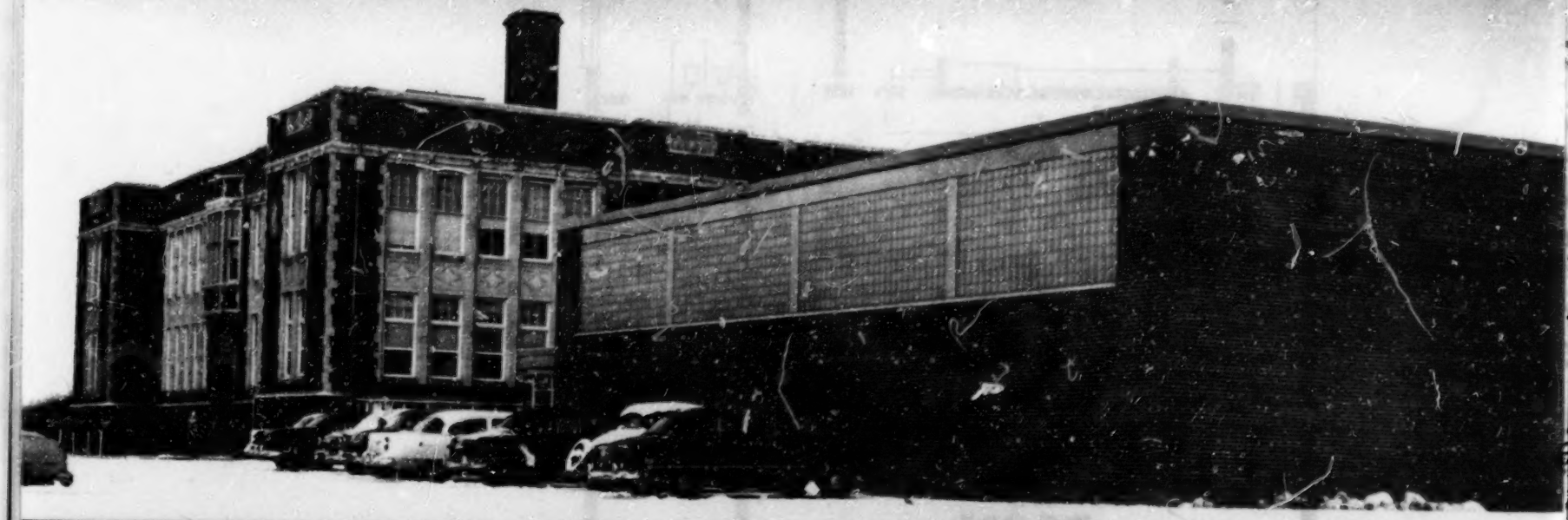
The additions to the older elementary schools have included a community room, principal's office, and a gymnasium with a folding stage installed at one end, making the gym suitable for large group meetings.

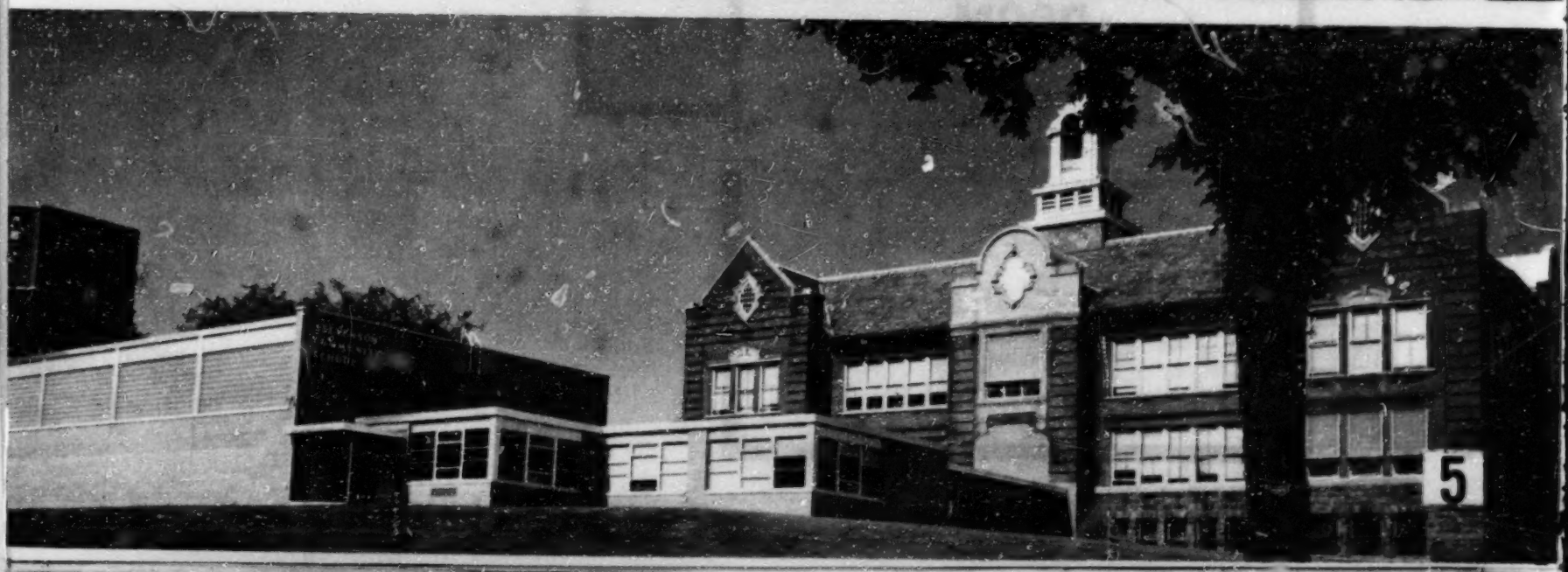
The principal's office was included because the consensus indicated the desirability of having it and community room adjacent if possible.

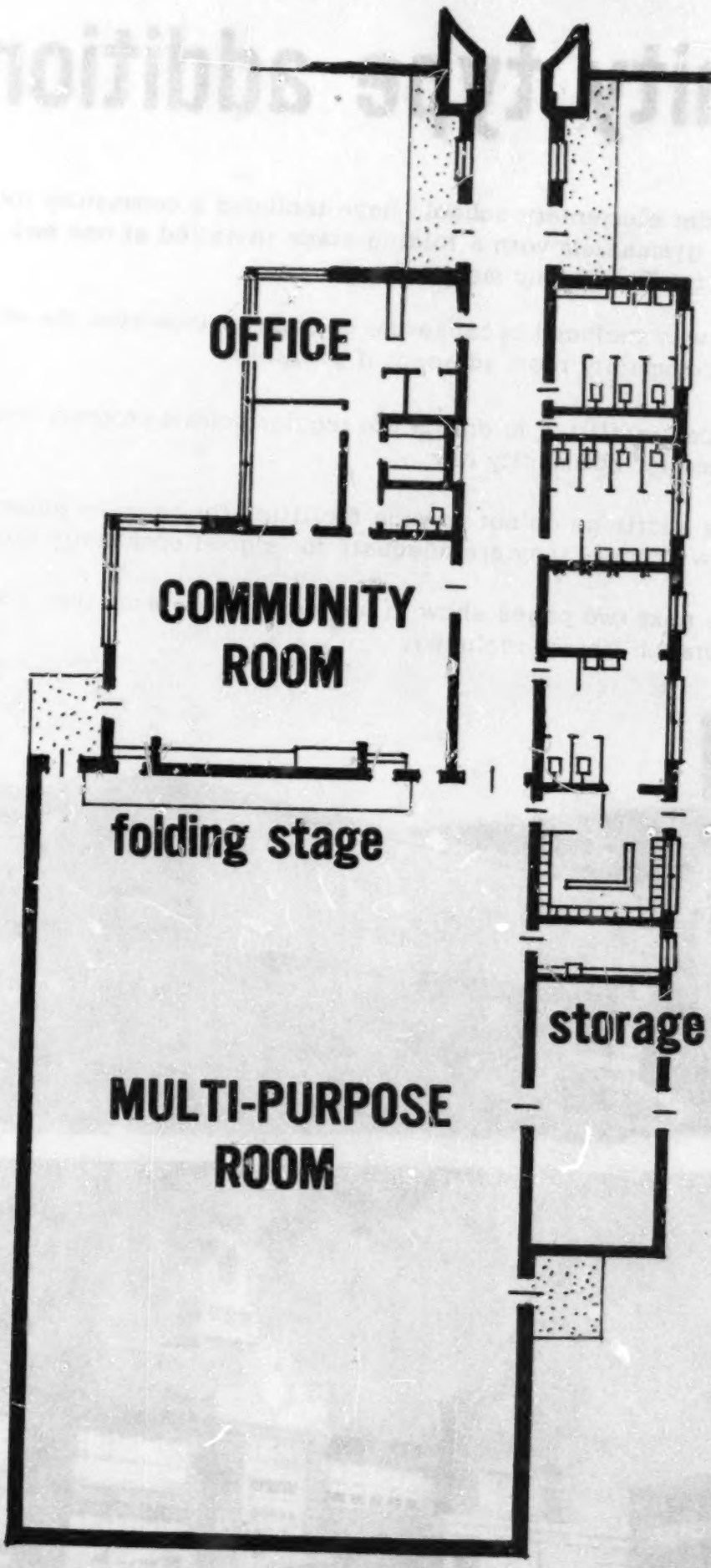
These additions provided facilities to enrich the regular school program even though they were designed for community use.

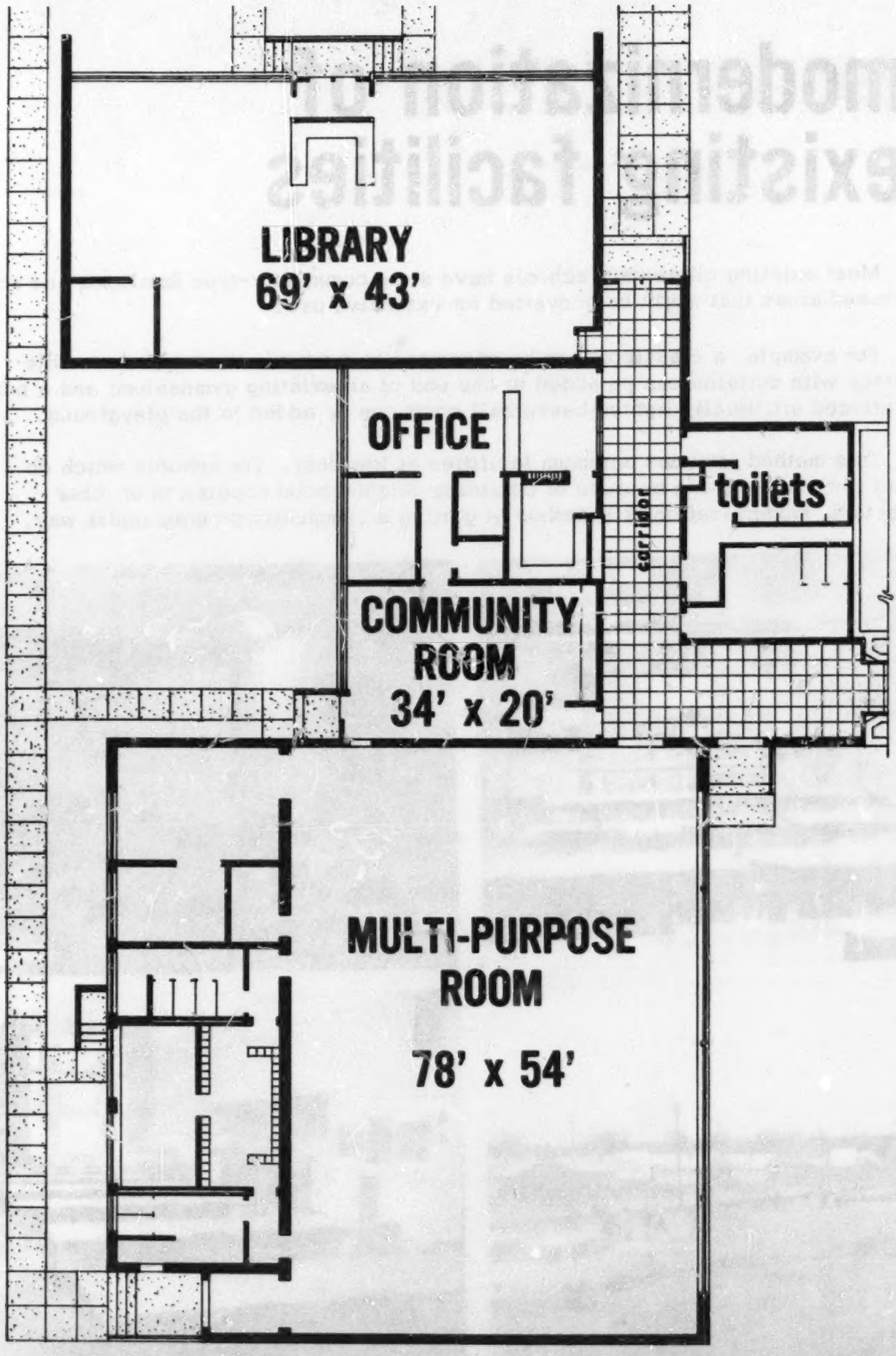
While community-type additions do not provide facilities for as many activities as the facilities in a new school, they are adequate for a good community program.

The floor plans on the next two pages show in sequence a minimum type addition and an addition with a branch library included.






EXISTING BUILDING
OFFICE
COMMUNITY ROOM
folding stage
storage
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

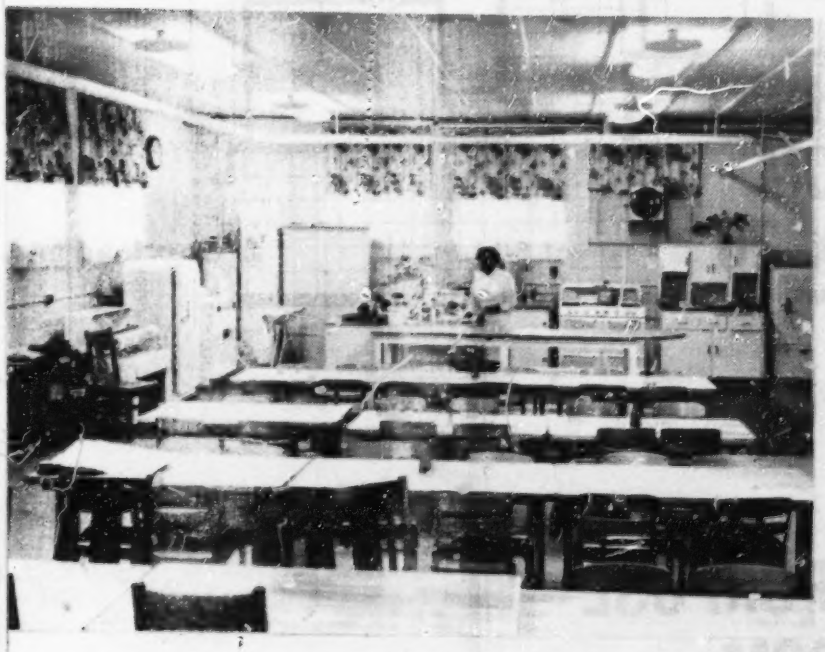

LIBRARY
69' x 43'
OFFICE
COMMUNITY
ROOM
34' x 20'
corridor
toilets
MULTI-PURPOSE
ROOM
78' x 54'

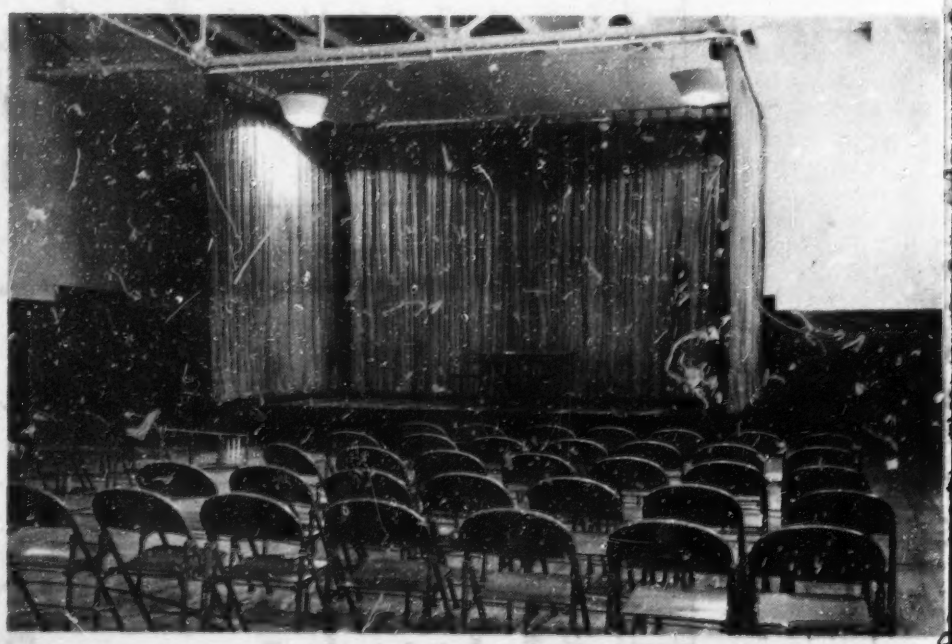
modernization of existing facilities

Most existing elementary schools have some community-type facilities and some unused areas that might be converted for extensive use.

For example, a classroom can be converted to a community room; a movable stage with curtains can be added to one end of an existing gymnasium; and a hard surfaced artificially lighted basketball court can be added to the playground.

This method provides minimum facilities at low cost. For schools which do not merit an addition because of declining neighborhood population or other factors, modernization is a method of getting a community program under way.





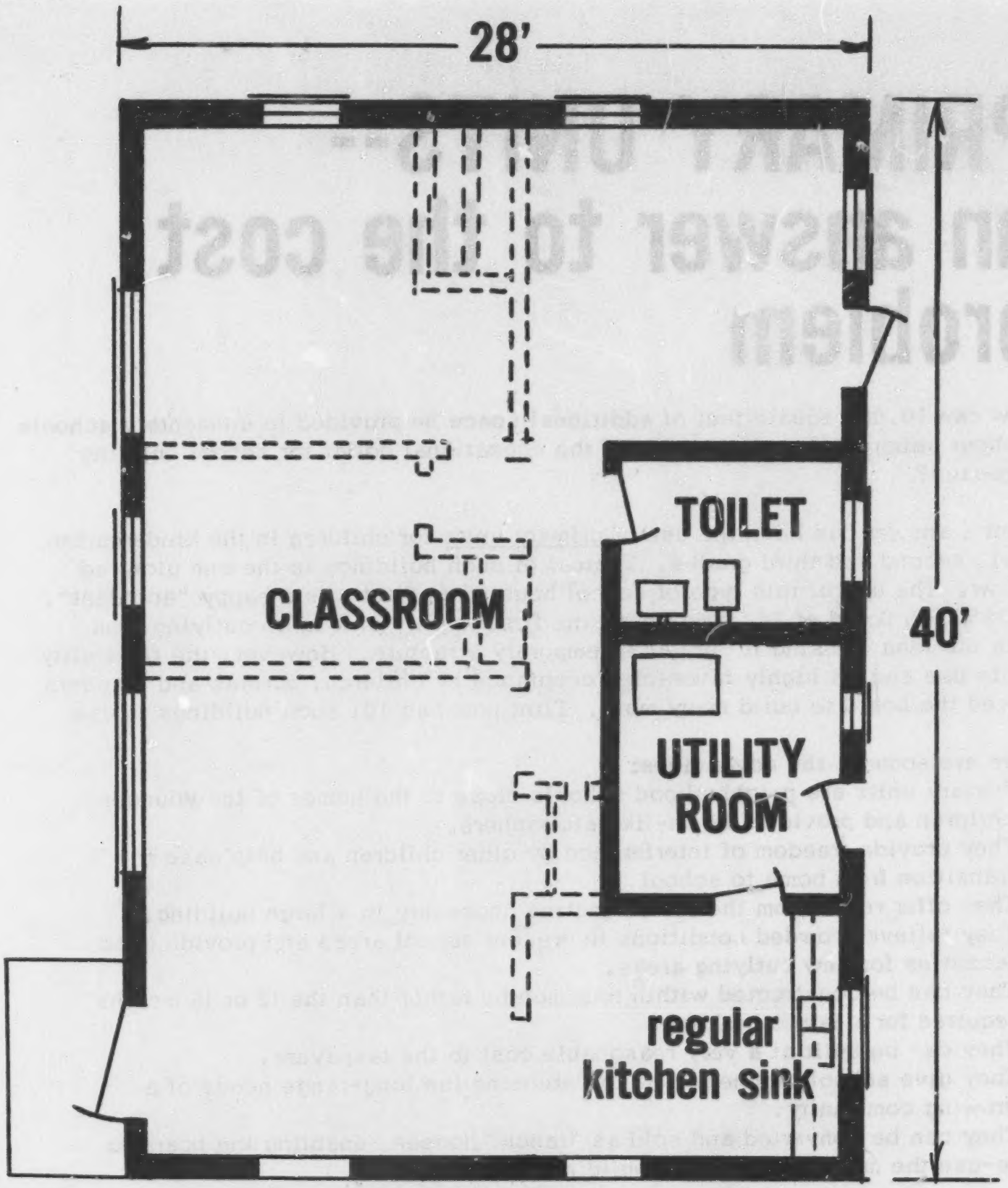
PRIMARY UNITS-- an answer to the cost problem

How can 10,000 square feet of additional space be provided in elementary schools without using too large a portion of the educational dollar for school building purposes?

Flint's answer has been the use of primary units for children in the kindergarten, first, second and third grades. Typical of such buildings is the one pictured below. The use of this type of school housing in Flint was a happy "accident". In 1953 the Board of Education built the first primary unit in an outlying area with the idea of using it only as a temporary structure. However, the flexibility of its use and its highly favorable acceptance by children, parents and teachers moved the board to build many more. Flint now has 101 such buildings in use.

Here are some of the advantages:

--Primary units are neighborhood schools close to the homes of the younger children and provide a home-like atmosphere.
--They provide freedom of interference by older children and help ease the transition from home to school.
--They offer relief from the formal routine necessary in a large building.
--They relieve crowded conditions in present school areas and provide good facilities for new outlying areas.
--They can be constructed within four months rather than the 12 or 16 months required for a larger building.
--They can be built at a very reasonable cost to the taxpayers.
--They give school planners time to determine the long-range needs of a growing community.
--They can be converted and sold as "ranch" houses, enabling the board to re-use the money for a larger building.



THIS FLOOR PLAN illustrates the simplicity of a typical primary unit. The dotted lines show possible partitioning which would make the building saleable as a home. The following facts and figures are based on the <u>average</u> primary unit in Flint:

Size..... 28' x 40' (1120 square feet)
Cost..... $11,500 per unit, exclusive of site
Heating .....Perimeter-type, using gas as fuel
Windows..... Anderson Flexivent
Floors.....Concrete slab with asphalt tile
Outside walls.....Matching neighborhood construction
Inside walls..... Metal lath and cement plaster

let's figure it out . . .

Probably a fair comparison of school building facilities would be on the basis of gross area per pupil using a fixed class size of 30 pupils.

Using this basis, the average gross area provided per pupil in schools built in Michigan in 1958-59 was 62.4 square feet.

In the community type elementary schools built in Flint, the gross area per pupil in the main building is 76.8 square feet.

However, when the 67 primary units in the 11 areas served by these schools are included, the gross area per pupil drops to 62 square feet or slightly below the Michigan average for 1958-59.

Gross Area Per Pupil--30 Pupils Per Class

Michigan elementary schools built 1958-59	62.4 sq. ft.
Flint community elementary schools built 1951-60 (11)	76.8 sq. ft.
Flint community elementary schools + 67 primary units	62. sq. ft.

Flint has 101 primary units in use but only 67 are in the areas served by the 11 new elementary schools.

This has been the method used by the Flint Board of Education to provide the community type facilities at practically the same cost that other schools are paying for conventional school buildings.

However, if this or some other building economy is not practiced to provide the facilities, the additional cost can be estimated for your area by using your cost index.

If you are now building schools with a 40' x 60' all purpose room, and without an auditorium or community room, the additional area desirable to conduct a community program would be a minimum of 10,000 square feet. Inasmuch as most of the extra area is in the auditorium and gymnasium with high ceilings, we have used $17 a square foot--or a minimum extra cost of $170,000.

The additions have been from 8,000 to 9,000 square feet depending on the facilities available in the existing building with a minimum cost estimate of $140,000. The cost estimate on modernization is $8,700.

THIS REPORT, WHICH ACCOMPANIES ONE OF A SERIES OF TAPE-SLIDE KITS DESCRIBING A COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROGRAM, WAS PREPARED BY THE

MOTT FOUNDATION PROGRAM of the FLINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

and the

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CENTER of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO